

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

November 19, 2009

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present:

Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Theresa Spengler, Vice-Chair

Kellie M. DiPalma

Liana F. Fenton

William R. O'Connell

Also Present:

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Superintendent of Schools

**Linda Savastano, Assistant Superintendent for Academic and
Technology Services**

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

Absent:

Peter Wood, Director of Technology

5:30 p.m. Parent/Community Chat

7:00 p.m. Regular Meeting

The topic for the first Parent/Community Chat was “Everything you Want to Know About Special Education”. The Parent/Community Chat began at 5:30 p.m. Mrs. Kraeger reviewed the guidelines for the Parent Chat. Trish Martins, Director of the NCRSP, along with Assistant Directors Sarah Kraeger-Psaras and Leslie Brow presented information on Special Education laws and programs. Newport County Regional Special Education includes Tiverton, Little Compton, Portsmouth and Middletown. The towns share services and are governed by a Regional Board of Superintendents. Out of the approximately 7500 students in the four towns, approximately 1400 students are eligible for services. PL94-142 was changed to IDEIA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act). As a result, there was a shift in educational policy that now requires an Rti (Response to Intervention). The RTI system includes regular and special education teachers, along with a unified system of curriculum and assessment. There are three tiers; Tier 1 is “Quality Instruction and Standard Curriculum”, Tier 2 is targeted individual interventions and small group instructions, and Tier 3 is specialized instruction, provided by an IEP.

Parents posed a number of questions throughout the chat:

- What it is like for a parent to have their child integrate with other students?
- Should your special needs child go forward with rest of their group if issues have not been resolved. Should they be promoted?
- What Extended School Year services should parents expect to receive in the summer?

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- If a parent found something that worked for students during the school year or over the summer that was really working, would Special Education pay for it?
- Is there an in-house support group for parents/guardians to get together to network and socialize?
- What is the time period in RTI from Tier 1 to Tier 3?
- What if there is a clash between the regular education teacher and the student and he is labeled?

The Regular School Committee Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Vincent Giuliano, Steven Ruscito and Stephen Ponte . The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- Student Awards –
 - oNewport Daily News Pals of the Week
 - oNewport Daily News Athlete of the Week
 - oFIRST Robotics and Technology of Newport County Sponsor

A short break was taken.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for November 19, 2009.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger highlighted items of information:

- Binding arbitration resolutions from different communities**
- Truancy court statistics**
- MPS E-Newsflash**
- Aquidneck School Newsletter and MHS Wave**

CORRESPONDENCE

No “Correspondence” for November 19, 2009.

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CONSENT AGENDA

MOTON: 1)Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

- Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2009 School Committee Meeting**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 9, 2009, in the amount of \$496.75**
- Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 14, 2009, in the amount**

of \$142,138.29

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 23, 2009, in the amount of \$5,553.47

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated October 28, 2009, in the amount of \$171,495.59

•Approval of Invoice Register, dated November 6, 2009, in the amount of \$4,082.76

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

APPOINTMENTS

Hakan Durudogan, D.D.S. School Dentist

Martha Ullman, M.D. School Physician

Cassandra Craig .8 ELL Teacher

Megan Sheeler .4 Secondary Math Teacher

Barbara Jones 4-Hour Teacher Asst, J.H. Gaudet School

Derek Gosselin Maintenance Tech - Level II

2009/10 WINTER COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Michael P. Clancey Boys' Varsity Basketball

Raleigh Brennan Boys' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Charles Russ Boys' 6/7/8TH Grade Basketball

Mike Yates Girls' Varsity Basketball

Dave Pritchard Girls' Assistant Varsity Basketball

Keith Holubesco Girls' 6/7/8TH Grade Basketball

Richard Francis, Jr Varsity Wrestling

Andrew Bulk Assistant Varsity Wrestling

Jason Smith-Rushton 6/7/8TH Grade Wrestling:

Theresa DiGiovanni Varsity Swim

Timothy Anderson Assistant Swim

Shannon Farrell Varsity Gymnastics:

Stephen Saunders Varsity Hockey

Jay Punsky Assistant Varsity Hockey

Renee Brietzke Cheerleading

Dr. Ullman has donated her stipend back to the schools to be used for the library.

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ACTION ITEMS

AUTHORIZE THE SUPERINTENDENT TO APPLY FOR HR6 – TITLE 8 – 874 IMPACT AID

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee authorize the Superintendent to apply for HR6 – title 8 – 874 Impact Aid. Unanimous vote.

MISA POSITION PAPER

MOTION: 1) Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee endorse the 2009-2010 Position Paper from the Military Impacted Schools Association. Unanimous vote.

CHEMICAL HEALTH & STUDENT SAFETY POLICY – 2nd Reading

This is being tabled.

HOME SCHOOLING

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee approve Home Schooling 09-10-04. Unanimous vote.

BID AWARD

MOTION: 1)Kellie DiPalma, 2) Liana Fenton. That the School Committee award the snow removal bid to J.A.M. Construction. Unanimous vote.

ISLAND GROUP EDUCATIONAL STUDY

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) William O'Connell. That the School

Committee approve \$5,000 to pursue an educational study related to regionalization, pending approval from Portsmouth and Newport School Committees and Municipalities. Unanimous vote.

This will be contingent on all communities getting involved. The goal is for each Town and School Committee to allocate \$5,000.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Newport County Regional Special Education Program”

Mrs. Kraeger introduced Mrs. Trish Martins, Mrs. Leslie Brow and Mrs. Sarah Kraeger-Psaras, who provided a brief overview of the NCRSEP. The program was established in 1979, serving Tiverton, Little Compton, Portsmouth and Middletown. There are a total of 7522 students, with 1424 receiving Special Education services. 240.55 teachers service the students. The percentage of students receiving services has decreased in the last two years.

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Many specialized programs have been developed in the Region to

keep students in their district: Transition to Adult Life, Positive Behavior Support, Preschool programs, Bradley School/Public School Partnership. 210 students access these programs. Over last 19 years, there has been a significant increase in autism spectrum disorder.

OLD BUSINESS

•H1N1 UPDATE – 83% of students at Aquidneck School were vaccinated. The Gaudet School clinic will be held next Monday. 86% of students have returned consent forms.

NEW BUSINESS

No “New Business” for November 19, 2009.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

•CURRICULUM – Mrs. Savastano reported that teachers continue to work on the math curriculum. Algebra and pre-algebra teachers met together. Geometry teachers met today. The Math Task Force meets monthly. They have been working on a math mission statement. The process that teachers are going through is very valuable.

Additionally, there has been professional development for teachers in special education co-teaching models. The Administrative team is working on Response To Intervention, as well as an evaluation tool. Mr. Ruscito hosted a Commissioner's Review at MHS on November 17th, which included representatives from the Department of Education, representatives from Administration and teachers from around the state. The high school was reviewed in 2008 and was given recommendations. A summary report will be received over the next couple of weeks.

•FINANCIAL – A joint meeting was held with the Town Finance Office and the Business Office. The 2010 -2011 budget will begin shortly.

•FACILITIES – Mr. Collins reported on last year's electrical use by building. Schools have done a very good job at conserving energy while maintaining usage. He will revisit this at the middle of the school year. At next month's meeting, Mr. Collins will show the gas usage by building. Four years of data on electrical usage has been collected. There have been numerous organizations inquiring about the vacant Kennedy School building.

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Kellie DiPalma. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton – Attended a PK– 16 Council Meeting. STEM education and Career Pathways were discussed. They would like to create career pathways for students when they leave the high school. Newport, Portsmouth, Middletown, Little Compton and Tiverton are working with 16 career clusters. They will discuss 4-year Bachelor's Degree and look at funding and governance.

Mr. Crowley – Reported that Saturday is the quarterly chairs meeting at RIC. Agenda items include the latest information regarding the decision of the Commissioner to remove seniority in contracts and contract language. Commissioner's Race to the Top meeting will be held December 2nd at SIRICO.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Kellie DiPalma. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 8:30 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger
Clerk